(a) and (b) Organisations like Indian Steel Alliance, TISCO and Essar Steel have opposed export of iron ore.

(c) The total export of iron ore during the last three years, year-wise is as follows:—

Year	Quantity (Million Tonnes)
2003-04	62.58
2004-05	78.15
2005-06 (Prov.)	89.27

(d) No, Sir. The major iron ore producing countries of the world, namely, Australia, Brazil and South Africa are exporting a majority of their production as iron ore rather than as finished products.

(e) Does not arise.

Re-opening of closed tea gardens in Darjeeling

875. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to re-open the closed tea gardens in Darjeeling; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) and (b) The Government of India and the Tea Board have been facilitating discussions between the managements of the closed tea gardens and their bankers with a view to arrive at a settlement for re-opening of the closed tea gardens in various States of the country. However, it is for the management of the individual closed gardens to work out the settlement with their bankers for re-opening the tea gardens.

ILL effects of weather on Coffee Growers

876. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adverse whether conditions had severely affected the productivity of the coffee estates in the past;